

AMBER Alerts on NOAA Weather Radio



In 2004, the National Weather Service will begin relaying **AMBER Alerts**, a child abduction recovery program, through the NOAA weather radio (NWR) system. The Kansas alerts will originate only from the **Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI)** and be sent both to radio and TV stations, through the Emergency Alert System (**EAS**), and to the general public to assist in finding the missing child.

AMBER Alerts will be relayed on the NWR using the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) system the same way tornado, flash flood and other storm warnings are transmitted. SAME coding will alert **only the newer type receivers programmed with the digital county/event coding**. Older type radios using the non-specific coding will not be activated for AMBER Alerts. Through the EAS activation, media outlets will be able to broadcast AMBER information automatically, **even when station personnel may not be on duty**, i.e. at night, weekends etc. Working with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, the Kansas EAS Committee and others, specific protocol, secure routing and communications backup procedures have been developed for relay of AMBER Alerts.

Messages on NWR containing AMBER information will be **short, generally about 60-90 seconds**, and be broadcast periodically for no more than 1 to 2 hours. **Only one message per alert will be broadcast with no cancellations nor updates planned**. For followup information, listeners and the media will be advised to contact their local law enforcement agency, 911 center or the Kansas Amber Alert web site at: **www.ksamber.org**

The AMBER Plan is activated when a local law enforcement agency decides through a **specific and comprehensive checklist** that a missing child has been abducted and/or is in life threatening situation. The relevant information is sent to the KBI for review and relay to local radio and television stations, other law enforcement and the public. The National Weather Service is part of the Kansas Amber Plan by quickly relaying the information to the media and public through NWR.

Several state and local agencies participate in the Kansas Amber plan. For additional and more detailed information contact the Kansas Bureau of Investigation or the Kansas Attorney General's office.



A Child Abduction Recovery Program